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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H01M 4/50, 4/62	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/13285 (43) International Publication Date: 10 April 1997 (10.04.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IT96/00181 (22) International Filing Date: 30 September 1996 (30.09.96) (30) Priority Data: FI95A000203 3 October 1995 (03.10.95) IT (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): VOLTA INDUSTRIES S.R.L. [IT/IT]; Via Pisana, 336, I-50010 Badia a Settimo (IT). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): RIZZARDI, Francesco [IT/IT]; Via Donna Rosa, 8, I-20050 Lesmo (IT). (74) Agents: MANNUCCI, Gianfranco et al.; Via della Scala, 4, I-50123 Firenze (IT).		(81) Designated States: BR, CA, JP, MX, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> <p style="text-align: center;">no</p>
(54) Title: DRY BATTERY HAVING A CATHODE WITH ADDITIVES (57) Abstract The battery is of the primary alkaline type and comprises a zinc anode, an anodic gel and a cathode. The cathode comprises a depolarizing mixture based on manganese dioxide containing a mica powder whose grains have a surface at least partially coated with titanium dioxide.		

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Dry battery having a cathode with additives

DESCRIPTIONTechnical Field

The present invention relates to a dry battery of the primary alkaline type. More particularly, the invention relates to a battery including a zinc anode, an anodic gel containing an alkaline compound, and a cathode including a depolarizing mixture based on manganese dioxide and graphite.

Background Art

The most recent developments regarding the manufacture of primary alkaline manganese batteries involve the use of titanium dioxide in various allotropic forms as an additive in the depolarizing mixture based on manganese dioxide, which represents the cathode of the battery. Such an additive, which enhances the rate of depolarization on the part of the manganese dioxide in the interior of the cathodic mass, principally has the effect of increasing the output of the battery when the latter is subjected to use with high current consumption.

Objects and Summary of the Invention

The object of the present invention is a further increase - by means of particular additives - of the output of the battery, expressed as the duration of discharge before the discharge tension falls below a preset level. In particular, the present invention provides for the use as additive of a mica powder whose grains have a surface at least partially coated with titanium dioxide, this powder having a particle size distribution of between 1 and 100 micrometres, preferably

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between 1 and 15 micrometres.

In a preferred embodiment, the said powder has a content by weight formed from equal parts of titanium dioxide and mica.

Said powder can be present in the depolarizing mixture forming the cathode in a percentage quantity of between 0.1 and 5%, preferably in a percentage quantity of the order of 1%.

The titanium dioxide contained in the said powder can be present in any one of its allotropic forms called anatase, rutile and brookite, also in a mixture of these, and is deposited on the mica grains, for example by dispersing the mica in liquid titanium tetrachloride and then transforming, by means of a known thermochemical process, the titanium tetrachloride into titanium oxide of the desired allotropic form.

With respect to a cathodic mass provided with an additive of only titanium dioxide, the particular structure of the additive proposed according to the present invention - characterized by a high granulometric fineness and, given the particular lamellar configuration of the mica crystals, by a high value of the surface-to-volume ratio of the grains themselves and by surface adhesion of the titanium dioxide particles to the mica particles - provides an increased absorption capacity for liquids and hence electrolyte on the part of the cathodic mass in which the additive is dispersed. For example, with a quantity of 1% of additive in the depolarizing mixture, the absorption capacity of the electrolyte increases by about 8% when passing from an additive composed solely of titanium dioxide to an additive as described above and composed of mica and titanium dioxide in equal parts. The increased quantity of electrolyte contained in the cathode makes higher discharge outputs possible, both for discharges at high consumption and for other types of use.

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Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be better understood by following the description and the attached drawing which refers to properties useful in the evaluation of the inventive content of the invention. In the drawing: Figures 1 to 6 show graphs of the discharge of batteries with an additive, respectively, with an additive containing 95% of rutile, the tests for which are marked A in the graphs, and with an additive containing 50% of rutile and 50% of mica mixed with one another in a powder, the tests for which are marked E in the graphs.

Detailed Description

For comparison of the effectiveness of the additives, tests were carried out under various discharge conditions, both intermittent and continuous, and with loads of varying magnitude (expressed as the electrical resistance in ohm).

For the tests, batteries were prepared comprising: a zinc anode, an anodic gel containing caustic potash, a corrosion inhibitor without added mercury, and a cathode comprising a depolarizing mixture based on manganese dioxide, graphite and the mica powder in which the grains were coated with rutile. To obtain the depolarizing mixture, said components were intimately mixed with one another beforehand in order to ensure a homogeneous distribution in the mixture. For all the batteries, the same constructional criterion was used and the same common components were utilized in order to guarantee the maximum uniformity of the batteries themselves which were produced from a single batch of common materials. The test was carried out with a uniform criterion also with regard to the ageing of the batteries or to the time elapsed from the formation of each battery and the test itself.

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In all the tests, the concentration of the additive was kept within 1% relative to the manganese dioxide.

In Figures 1 to 6, the durations in minutes or in hours of effective discharge are indicated on the abscissae. For each test, the result assumed is the time of actual discharge elapsed until the potential of the battery has fallen to the value E.P. (end point) shown on each figure, in accordance with the standard IEC 86/1. For each type of battery, the right-hand border of the hatched area represents in the figures the average of the values obtained with further successive tests.

In all the tests carried out, the values of duration measured show that the batteries of type E (provided with an additive of mica and rutile) give durations which are greater by a value of between 4% and 8% than the durations of the batteries of type A (provided solely with a rutile additive).

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CLAIMS

1. Dry battery of the primary alkaline type, including: a zinc anode; an anodic gel containing an alkaline compound; and a cathode comprising a depolarizing mixture based on manganese dioxide and graphite, characterized in that said mixture contains a mica powder whose grains are coated at least partially with titanium dioxide.
2. Battery according to Claim 1, characterized in that said powder has a particle size distribution of between 1 and 100 micrometres.
3. Battery according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said powder has a particle size distribution of between 1 and 15 micrometres.
4. Battery according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said powder has a content by weight formed from substantially equal parts of titanium dioxide and mica.
5. Battery according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that said powder is present in said mixture in a percentage quantity of between 0.1 and 5%.
6. Battery according to Claim 4, characterized in that said percentage quantity is of the order of 1%.
7. Battery according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the titanium dioxide is present in the allotropic form called anatase.
8. Battery according to any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the titanium dioxide is present in the allotropic form called rutile.
9. Battery according to any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the titanium dioxide is present in the allotropic form called brookite.
10. Battery according to any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the titanium dioxide is present as a mixture of said various allotropic forms.

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11. Battery according to any of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that said alkaline compound is caustic potash or magnesium hydroxide or the like.

12. Battery according to any of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that it includes corrosion inhibitors and/or a mercury amalgam.

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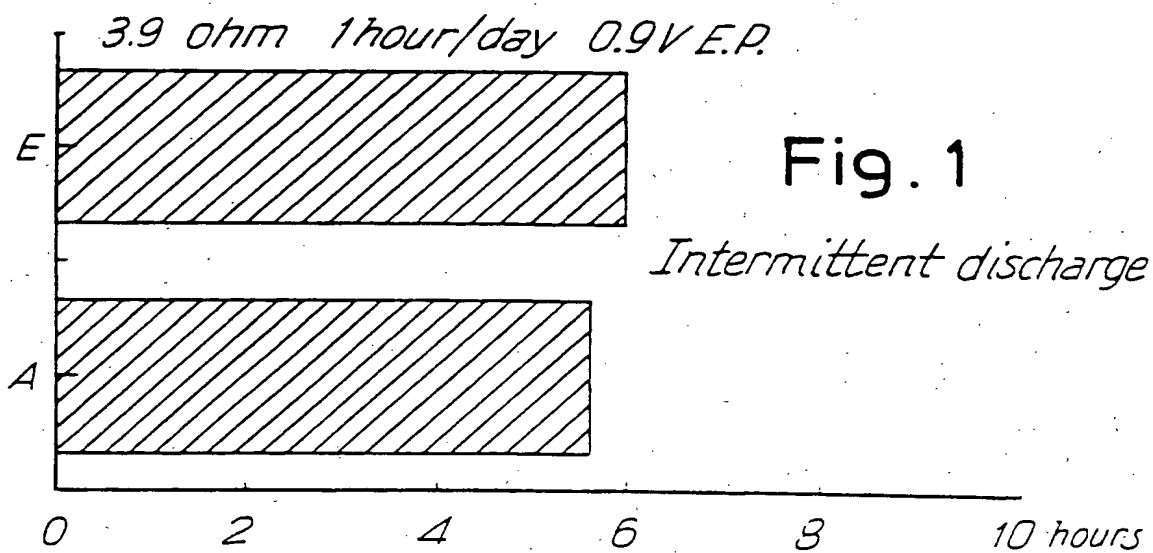


Fig. 2

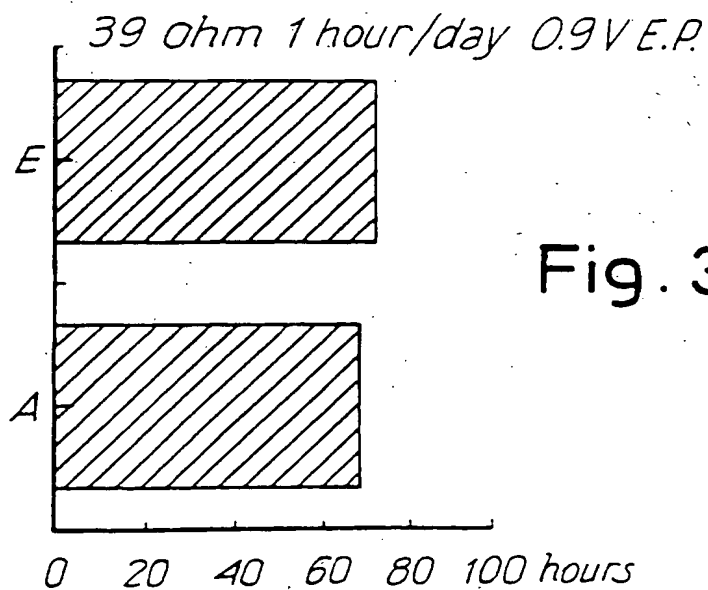
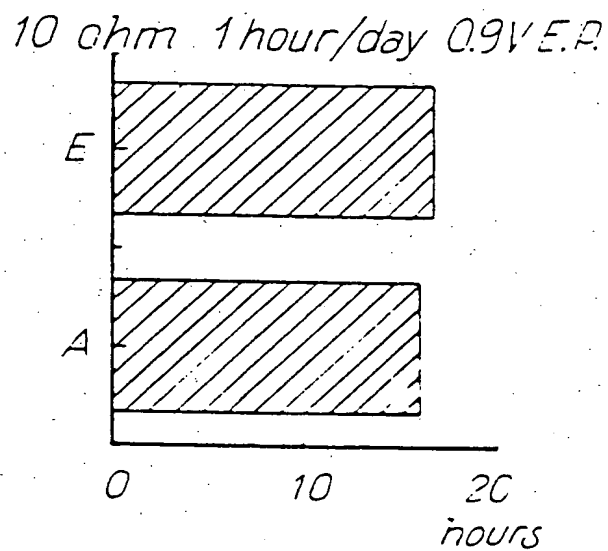


Fig. 3

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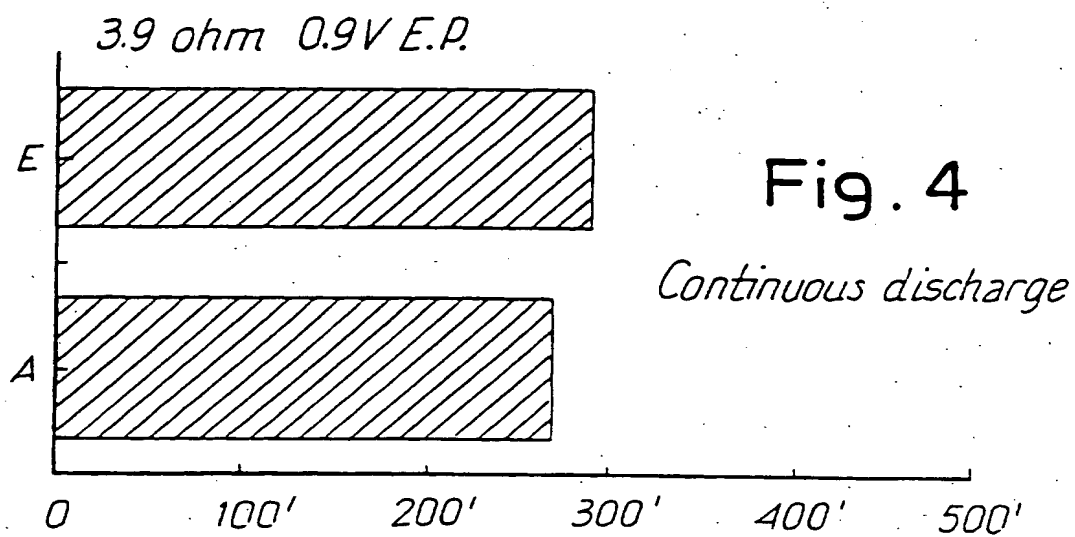


Fig. 5

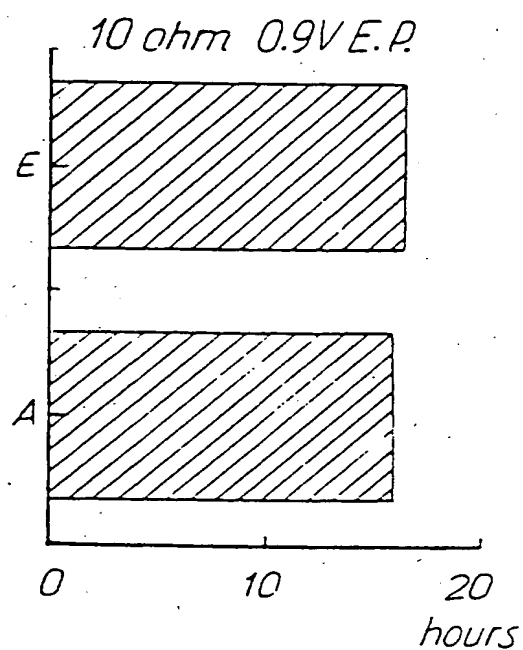
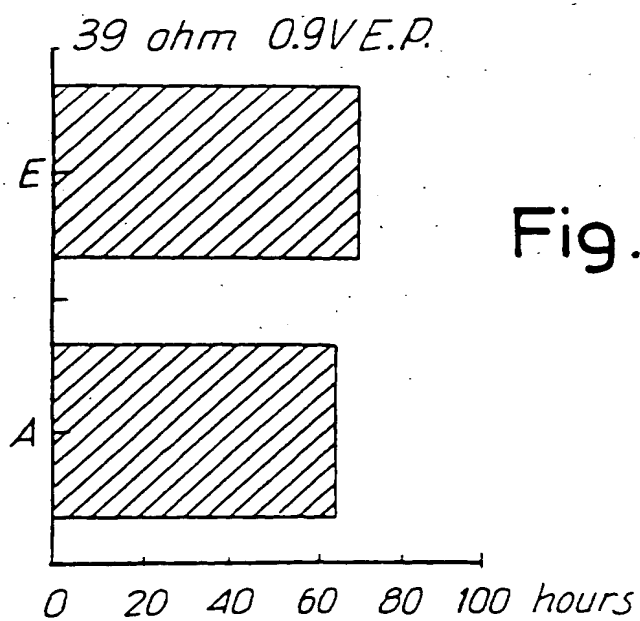


Fig. 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal Application No
PCT/IT 96/00181

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H01M4/50 H01M4/62

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 053 (E-301), 7 March 1985 & JP,A,59 194355 (TOSHIBA DENCHI KK), 5 November 1984, see abstract	1-12
A	US,A,5 300 371 (TOMANTSCHGER KLAUS ET AL) 5 April 1994 see column 15, line 29 - line 55; claims 1-49	1-12

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 January 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

11. 02. 97

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Information on patent family members

Internal Application No

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